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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,560	05/17/2006	Toshihisa Hirata	A3-205 US	7492

7590 11/21/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/535,560

Applicant(s)

HIRATA, TOSHIHISA

Examiner

Phuongchi Nguyen

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 10 and 11, lines 1, it is unclear where is the “detent projection” in the specification. Is the “detent projection” the same as the “pivot projection” of claim 8, line 3 and claim 9, line 4?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumpel et al (US6884102B2).

In regards to claim 1, Rumpel et al discloses a memory card connector (1) for receiving a memory (SIM) card (col. 3, lines 3-7) having a plurality of conductive contacts (col. 3, lines 8-13), comprising:

an insulating housing (11);

a plurality of conductive terminals (col. 3, lines 8-13) mounted on the housing (11);

a cover (12) having receptacle means (holding means)(col. 4, lines 18-20) for receiving the memory (SIM) card; and

Art Unit: 2833

a pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) operatively associated between the cover (12) and the housing (11) and movably mounting the cover (12) to the housing (11), including

pivot means (of 28) engageable between the cover (12) and the housing (11) to mount the cover (12) for pivotal movement between an open position to allow the memory (SIM) card to be received on the cover (12) and a closed position bringing the contacts (col. 3, lines 3-7) of the memory (SIM) card into engagement with the terminals (6) on the housing (11), and

detent means (of 30) engageable between the cover (12) and the housing (11) to allow the cover (12) to slidably move from the closed position to a latched position (col. 3, lines 56-58), a portion of the pivot means (of 28) providing a dual (pivot and sliding/latching) function of forming a portion of the detent means (of 30).

In regards to claim 2, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the pivot means (of 28) of the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) comprises a pivot socket (28) in one of the housing (11) for receiving a pivot projection (48) on the cover (12).

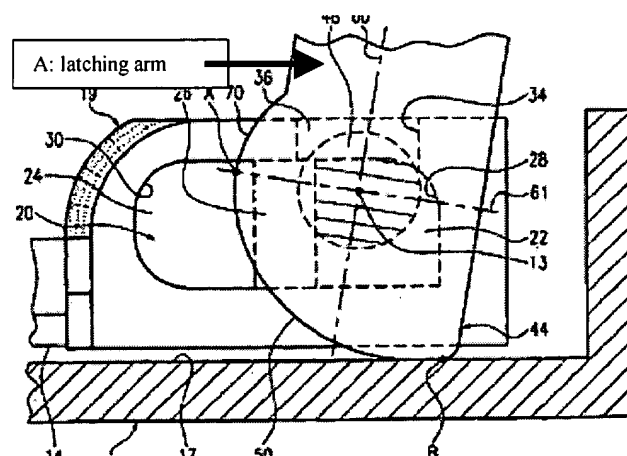
In regards to claim 3, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the detent means (of 30) of the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) includes a detent socket (30) separate from and independent of the pivot socket (28) (by the rib 26) for receiving the pivot projection (48) and defining the latched position of the cover (12), the pivot projection (48) thereby performing a dual (pivot and sliding/latching) function of forming a portion of both the pivot means (of 28) and the detent means (of 30).

In regards to claim 4, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector including complementary interengaging latch means (of A) between the sidewalls of the cover (12) and opposite sides of the housing (11) and automatically engageable when the cover (12) slides to the latched position (24).

Art Unit: 2833

In regards to claim 6, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the housing (11) is generally flat and mounts the terminals (col. 3, lines 3-13) in a generally side-by-side array (it is inherent, see EP 0 472 692 or US5996891) and includes a pair of mounting portions (19) at opposite sides thereof, the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) being operatively associated between the mounting portions (19) and the cover (12).

In regards to claim 7, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the cover (12) is generally flat and the receptacle means (holding means) includes a mouth (adjacent 46) at one end of the cover (12) for insertion of the memory (SIM) card thereinto, the cover (12) having a pair of spring arms (A) at an opposite end thereof and juxtaposed alongside the pair of mounting portions (19) of the housing (11), the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) being operatively associated between the mounting portions (19) of the housing (11) and the spring arms (A) of the cover (12) (see marked-up below).



In regards to claim 8, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the pivot means (of 28) of the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) comprises a pivot socket (28) in each of the mounting portions (19) of the housing (11) for receiving a pivot projection (48) on each of the spring arms (A) of the cover (12).

Art Unit: 2833

In regards to claim 9, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector (1) wherein the detent means (of 30) of the pivot-detent mechanism (of 20+48) includes a detent socket (30) in each of the mounting portions (19) of the housing (11) separate from and independent of the pivot socket (28) in the respective mounting portion (19), the detent sockets (30) receiving the pivot projections (48) and defining the latched position of the cover (12), and the pivot projections (48) thereby performing a dual (pivot and latching/sliding) function of forming a portion of both the pivot means (of 28) and the detent means (of 30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumpel et al (US6884102B2).

In regards to claim 10, Rumpel et al discloses the invention generally all as claimed, but lacks generally cone-shaped pivot projections. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the invention was made to modified the pivot projection of Rumpel et al by having a generally cone-shaped for ease sliding the pivot projections from the pivot socket to the latching socket.

7. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumpel et al (US6884102B2) in view of Schnell et al (US6234810B1).

In regards to claim 11, Rumpel et al discloses the invention generally all as claimed, but lacks a flat, round and chamfered about the periphery of the pivot projection. However, Schnell et al teach the pivot projections (56) are flat, round and chamfered about the periphery thereof

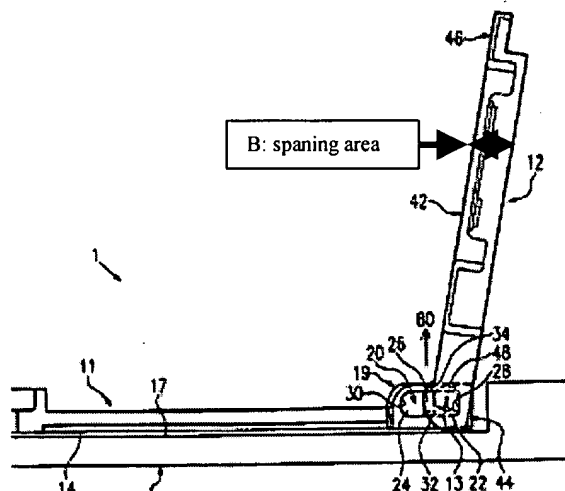
Art Unit: 2833

(fig. 3a). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the invention was made to modified the pivot projection of Rumpel et al by having flat, round and chamfered about the periphery as taught by Schnell et al for having a guiding surface to guide the pivot projection into the pivot socket for easily sliding the projection over the rib to enter the latching position.

In regards to claim 12, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector wherein the spring arms (A) are resilient to self-bias the pivot projections (48) thereon into the pivot sockets (28) and the detent sockets (30) in the mounting portions (19) of the housing (11). Rumpel et al discloses the invention generally all as claimed, but lacks a stamped, sheet metal cover.

However, Schnell et al teach the cover (17) is a stamped and formed of a sheet metal material (col. 3, lines 22-23). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the invention was made to modified the cover of Rumpel et al by having a stamp, sheet metal material as taught by Schnell et al for increasing the flexibility of the latching arms.

In regards to claim 13, Rumpel et al discloses the memory card connector wherein the cover (12) includes a cover (top) plate (of 12) spanning an area between the spring arms (A) and a pair of sidewalls (B) defining opposite sides of the receptacle means (holding means) (see marked-up above). Claim 14 is rejected for the same reason as claim 4.



Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 5 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In regards to claims 5 and 15, none of prior art teaches or suggests the memory card having the latching flanges formed inwardly from the sidewalls of the cover which is slidable under latching flanges at opposite sides of the housing, when the cover slides to the latched position.

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Matsunaga (US2006/0057893A1) is cited to show the generally cone-shaped pivot projections 9a as seen in figure 4B.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2012. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

Art Unit: 2833

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PCN

November 13, 2006



TULSIDAS C. PATEL
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER